

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for considering the present application. In the Office Action dated March 3, 2009, claims 1-26 are pending in the application. Claims 1-4, 14, 15, 17, 19-20 and 25-26 have been amended. Claims 16-24 have been cancelled. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejections.

TERMINAL DISCLAIMER

The Examiner states that the Terminal Disclaimer filed November 29, 2007 has not been approved for the reason that the attorney is not of record, and that a new Terminal Disclaimer should be filed.

Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer signed by Todd N. Snyder, an attorney of record.

MINOR, NON-NARROWING CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Minor, non-narrowing amendments have been made to claims 1-4, 17, 19-20, and 25-26 for claim consistency and/or to correct grammatical errors.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 14, 18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bella (U.S. Pat. No. 5,765,098) in view of Sherman (U.S. Pat. No. 5,966,371) and further in view of Tanaka et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,157,685). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 14 has been amended to correspond directly to claim 1 except in method form. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to allow claim 14 and dependent claims 15-17.

Claims 15-17, 19 and 21-24 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Bella in view of Sherman and further in view of Tanaka et al. and Baier et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,519,477).

Claims 19 and 21-24 have been cancelled.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 1-13 and 25-26.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, Applicants submit that all rejections are now overcome. The application is now in condition for allowance and expeditious notice thereof is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments which would place the application in better condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Should any fees be associated with this submission, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0383; or, credit any over payment to this account.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 30, 2009

By: 
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